



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

Monday, August 20, 2007

Mr. David M. Newman  
New York Committee for Occupational  
Safety and Health  
116 John Street, Suite 604  
New York, New York 10038

RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (2)RIN-1113-07 and (HQ)RIN-1734-07

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is in response to your letters dated April 2, 2007, addressed to both our national and regional U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) offices.

Enclosed you will find records which are responsive to your FOIA as well as written verifications from those USEPA departments who searched for records, but, located nothing which was responsive. As a follow up to my earlier message, there are no billable charges associated with the processing of this request.

We do not consider this a denial, but if you do, you have the right to appeal to the Office of Environmental Information, Records, FOIA, and Privacy Branch (2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. The appeal must be in writing, and it must be received at this address no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 30-day limit. The appeal may include as much or as little related information as you wish, as long as it clearly identifies the determination being appealed (including the assigned FOIA number). For quickest possible handling, the appeal letter and its envelope should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal".

If you have any questions with respect to this reply, please contact Mary Mears, Chief of the Public Outreach Branch at 212-637-3675.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wanda Calderon", is positioned above the typed name.

Wanda Calderon  
Freedom of Information Specialist  
Public Outreach Branch

Enclosures

Kathy  
Callahan/R2/USEPA/US  
11/14/2001 08:30 AM

To Raymond Werner/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Dore  
LaPosta/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
bcc  
Subject background for Friday meeting on WTC data

----- Forwarded by Kathy Callahan/R2/USEPA/US on 11/14/01 08:24 AM -----

Elaine Stanley  
11/08/01 04:32 PM

To: Eileen McGinnis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, William  
Muszynski/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Margaret  
Schneider/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Kim Nelson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA,  
Kathy Callahan/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc: Linda Huffman/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
Subject: background for Friday meeting on WTC data

Attached is a brief summary of the status of the data management work for WTC and some options for the discussion on next steps; thanks.



WTCdataupdate1107rev.w

## WTC Data Status Update

### WTC Multi-Agency Monitoring Database

- Database implemented September 28 with standard output reports and data entry templates. Database houses data from network of 11 data providers including EPA, OSHA, NY City and State agencies and several private consultants.
- Approximately 90% of all data received is in the database - some limited hard copy files await input. Reconciliation of locational data between providers has required intense effort.
- All data providers currently going through data cleanup and reconciliation to verify accuracy and completeness of their data pending possible posting of their data on EPA website (3 providers - Turner Construction - Con Edison and Amel Environmental - request that their data not appear on website and a few others are still deliberating.)

### WTC Website Presentations

- WTC updates moved off EPA Homepage to dedicated website - with monitoring data, daily summaries, FAQs, press releases, pictures, factsheets, etc. We currently have nine "analyte-specific" presentations of EPA monitoring data on website complete with maps, context and data tables: asbestos - pm 2.5 (DEC data) - pm 10 - dioxins in air - benzene in air - drinking water - pcbs in air - bulk dust/asbestos and dioxin.
- Decisions on what analytes to post, development of context and review of data being done by inter-agency team including OEI (Debbie/Dave), Region II (Bonnie Bellow/Ray Werner/Bob Kelly/Harvey Simon/Dore LaPosta), OAQPS (Fred Dimmick/Debbie Stackhouse), OCEMR (Jeffrey Levy/Tom Basile)
- We expect to wrap up analyte specific presentations for EPA data next week with chromium, VOCs and metals which are currently under discussion.
- Work underway on WTC EnviroMapper with integrated maps, data tables and additional visualization tools. WTC EM currently being reviewed by EPA and NY State reps - public release on website planned this month
- Current stats show that the WTC monitoring site has received more than 15,000 visitors since September 26 when data first posted. Asbestos and PM data are of most interest.
- To date 375 comments have been received on WTC-Pentagon-Emergency Response topics - on issues like technical monitoring guidelines, requests for more/different data; marketing solicitations (have I got a product for you!); long and short-term health impacts; bioterrorism readiness concerns, etc.

### Where to Next??

- As of 11/02 - work has cost \$350k - covering "fast-track" design/development/implementation of database, reconciliation of data and development of EPA/DEC website presentations.
- Two possible options:
  - 1) Multi-Provider Database/EPA/DEC only Web Postings - \$480k/0.5 FTE
    - Complete population of database with data from all providers;
    - Complete EPA/DEC postings;
    - NO posting of other provider data (requires far less reconciliation);
    - Develop integrated presentations of EPA/DEC data;
    - O&M/database updates through May 2002 (30k/month = \$180k of total)
  - 2) Multi-Provider Database/Multi-Agency Web Postings - \$850k/1.0 FTE
    - Complete population of database with data from all providers
    - Complete EPA/DEC postings;
    - Integrate other data where provider willing;
    - Develop integrated presentations of all data;
    - O&M/database updates through May 2002 (\$50k/month = \$300k of total)

William Muszynski  
Sent by: Maureen  
Hickey

To: CD\*, CID\*, DECA\*, DEPP\*, ERRO\*, OIG\*, OPM\*, ORA\*, ORC\*,  
DESA\*

cc: Carl Soderberg/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Jose  
Font/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

10/11/2001 10:09  
AM

Subject: Air Quality in lower Manhattan

Many of you have expressed concerns about air quality as a result of the World Trade Center disaster. Since September 11, EPA, in addition to other federal, state and city agencies, has been taking samples of the air, dust, water, river sediments and drinking water and analyzing them for the presence of pollutants that might pose a health risk to response workers at the World Trade Center site and the public. Results for asbestos, PM 2.5 (both sampling results and location) and water sampling are available currently on EPA's website: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Additional information, such as bulk dust sample results, will be posted in the near future. In general, the website is updated daily for asbestos and PM 2.5 results; as other sampling results become available these will be added to the website. Daily summaries of sampling results will also be posted on the website shortly. Additional analysis of the PM 2.5 is being conducted for the Region by the Office of Research and Development. The data analysis has just been started and as it is completed it will be made available.

In addition to EPA's sampling results, the EPA web page contains links to asbestos sampling results obtained by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and fact sheets on asbestos and dust prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Data from the New York State Ambient Air Monitoring System and the New Jersey DEP Bureau of Air Monitoring are also linked to EPA's web page.

Many of you may have read or heard news coverage about air monitoring for asbestos in the World Trade Center area conducted by a private toxicology firm. The study asserts that the asbestos was pulverized into microscopic particles too small to be detected by EPA tests. Dr. Philip Landrigan, Director of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and former children's health advisor to the Administrator at EPA, has said, "If people are sensible, the risk is extremely low."

We have continuously advised workers at the site to wear respiratory protection and have told employees of area businesses and local residents to make sure they clean dusty workplaces and homes following New York City Department of Health recommendations. I recognize that the conditions caused by the smoke from the former World Trade Center is clearly less than desirable. However, the data that we have and that we are using to advise the public, indicates that there is no significant health risk to residents, visitors or workers beyond the immediate World Trade Center area and the Staten Island landfill.

As we continue to obtain more information, I will continue to keep you advised.

## ISSUES for Planning meeting

21Sep01

- DFO to get estimates on glass/cement/iron (FEMA DFO liaison)
- When can we reduce the number of air monitoring sites (Dave Wright)
- OSHA and EPA data on same charts (John Higgins)
- EPA—air monitoring; OSHA—personnel monitoring (Bruce/Shane)
- Who is collecting all the data (Dore/Dave Wright)
- Respirators/cartridges business passed to army national guard (Arlene Anderson)
- OSHA enforcement of PPE when operations transition to recovery (Bruce/Shane)
- EPA and OSHA jointly agree on a sign and post; Field personnel will determine where to post; Linda must know what the sign says. RA sent wording to Bruce 9/20pm.
- DEC will handle jump kit issue (DEC Liaison)
- Sewer screening operations (Dave Wright/Mike Toll)
- FEMA wanting update
- Requested by Navy to sample USS COMFORT (similar issue as the JCC)—ERT will sample onboard ship (Dave Wright)
- Cost documentation/tracking (Rich Manna/Dave Boyd)
- New York Port Authority and Dept of Health found air conditioning freon system in tact except for bent piping. Leave system as is (Action?)
- Escort of corporate personnel into Financial District Buildings. Get police to do escort duties, once screened by CG crews (Andy)
- Clarification of mission assignment numbers. Roll 03 into 31. (FEMA DFO Liaison)
- Housing-sampling of interior/exterior spaces for asbestos/hazards to see if any concerns exist (FEMA, DFO Liaison)
- How are EPA people being processed in and out for relief?
- Data management
- Security issues

~~Drilled~~ TINA HAS something  
P.R. the you seen it?  
Response to Questions about OSHA Asbestos Samples

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) took 7 dust samples for asbestos on Thursday, September 13. These samples were analyzed by EPA for OSHA. All of the samples had asbestos levels above 1 percent -- the level that defined asbestos-containing material. The levels, which ranged from 2.1 percent to 3.3 percent, do not pose a health concern for people living outside ground zero and the immediate area.

EPA did anticipate that additional sampling might find evidence of asbestos in close proximity to the destroyed buildings. That is why the Agency has consistently recommended that emergency response workers wear appropriate protective gear and avoid tracking dust out of the area.

EPA will be collecting an increased number of dust samples in lower Manhattan and testing them for asbestos. We expect results by tomorrow.

The Agency is recommending that businesses in the area planning to reopen next week take proper precautions including cleaning air conditioning filters and using vacuums with appropriate filters to collect dust. Vacuuming will reduce the chance of reentering workers tracking dust into the buildings. This work is already underway by city agencies. EPA is providing 16 large vacuum trucks to clean the streets in these areas. The cleanup work will be conducted over the weekend in anticipation of a Monday return to business.

~~THE~~ OSHA reports that  
they have indoor air ok  
That they walked outside  
checked by dust work  
personnel  
No monitoring  
ambient  
problems

She did not  
have the OSHA  
INFO

- we did not enter  
(personal monitors)



Tina to Coordinate  
with you to  
advise  
PR

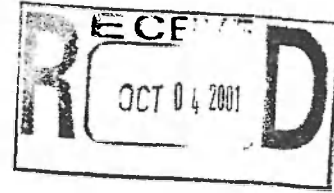
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John Henshaw - 732 -

Tina / Newspapers



 Previous  Next



## Headquarters Press Release

Washington, DC

Date 10/03/2001

Published:

Title: EPA AND OSHA WEB SITES PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL  
MONITORING DATA FROM WORLD TRADE CENTER AND  
SURROUNDING AREAS

# Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3, 2001

## EPA AND OSHA WEB SITES PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA FROM WORLD TRADE CENTER AND SURROUNDING AREAS

**Data Confirms No Significant Public Health Risks;  
Rescue Crews and Nearby Residents Should Take Appropriate Precautions**

### CONTACT:

Bonnie Bellow, EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3660  
Bonnie Piper, EPA Headquarters (202) 564-4355  
Sue Hensley, Department of Labor, (202) 693-4676  
Susan Fleming, OSHA, (212) 337-2326

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman and U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) John Henshaw announced today that both federal agencies are providing the public with extensive additional environmental monitoring data from the World Trade Center site and nearby areas in Manhattan, Brooklyn and New Jersey. Both agencies have taken hundreds of samples to monitor environmental conditions since September 11, and have found no evidence of any significant public health hazard to residents, visitors or workers beyond the immediate World Trade Center area.

In response to public requests for more detailed information, EPA and OSHA are making the results of environmental and occupational sampling available on their sites on the World Wide Web ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)), and will post additional data as it becomes available.

EPA and OSHA, working closely with other federal, state, and local agencies, have been sampling the air, dust, water, river sediments and drinking water and analyzing them for the presence of pollutants such as asbestos, radiation, mercury and other metals, pesticides, PCBs, or bacteria that might create health hazards. They have found no evidence of any significant public health hazard to residents or visitors to the New York metropolitan area.

"EPA's web site now has more detailed information on environmental monitoring information in New York City that should be very reassuring to residents, tourists and workers, and we will continue to update that site with information as it becomes available," said EPA Administrator Whitman. "Our data show that contaminant levels are low or non-existent, and are generally confined to the Trade Center site. There is no need for concern among the general public, but residents and business owners should follow recommended procedures for cleaning up homes and businesses if dust has entered."

OSHA Administrator John Henshaw confirmed that workers on the site should take appropriate steps to protect themselves, but there is no threat to public health. "We have more than 200 staffers involved in a round-the-clock effort, continually monitoring conditions to ensure the safety and health of workers," Administrator Henshaw said. "It is important for workers involved in the recovery and clean-up to wear protective equipment as potential hazards and conditions are constantly changing at the site; however, our samples indicate there is no evidence of significant levels of airborne asbestos or other contaminants beyond the disaster site itself."

On the whole, despite questions about potential contaminants from the Trade Center site, EPA and OSHA data indicate there is no cause for general public concern. Residents and workers returning to buildings where dust from the Trade Center has entered the building should follow proper procedures in cleaning buildings, but the general public should feel very reassured about the extensive environmental monitoring data that has been collected and analyzed. Rescue and recovery crews working on the Trade Center site should take steps to protect themselves from potential exposure to contaminants by using respirators and washing stations as recommended by EPA and OSHA.

In total, EPA and OSHA have taken 835 ambient air samples in the New York City metropolitan area. EPA is currently collecting data from 16 fixed air monitors at ground zero and in the residential and business districts around the site, and both EPA and OSHA are using portable sampling equipment to collect data from a range of locations throughout the area.

Out of a total of 442 air samples EPA has taken at ground zero and in the immediate area,

only 27 had levels of asbestos above the standard EPA uses to determine if children can re-enter a school after asbestos has been removed – a stringent standard based upon assumptions of long-term exposure. OSHA has analyzed 67 air samples from the same area, and all were below the OSHA workplace standard for asbestos.

All 54 air samples from EPA's four monitors in New Jersey found no levels above EPA's standard. Another 162 samples were taken from EPA's monitors at the Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island, where debris from the World Trade Center is being taken; only two exceeded EPA's standard.

Of 177 bulk dust and debris samples collected by EPA and OSHA and analyzed for asbestos, 48 had levels over 1 percent, the level EPA and OSHA use to define asbestos-containing material. Although early samples from water runoff into the Hudson and East Rivers showed some elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxin, asbestos and metals, recent results find non-detectable levels of asbestos, and PCBs and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals below the level of concern.

EPA and OSHA have also conducted sampling for the presence of metals (lead, iron oxide, zinc oxide, copper and beryllium) at ground zero and in surrounding areas. None of the levels of these metals have exceeded OSHA limits.

Although EPA has measured dioxin levels in and around the World Trade Center site that were at or above EPA's level for taking action, the risk from dioxin is based on long-term exposure. EPA and OSHA expect levels to diminish as soon as the remaining fires on the site are extinguished.

Of the 36 samples of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) taken around ground zero to assist response workers in determining the appropriate level of respiratory protection, several samples have been above the OSHA standard for workers. None presented an immediate risk to workers, and the levels are expected to decline when the fires are out.

Fact sheets with more specific information for various parts of the New York City metropolitan area are attached.

### Resources for Information on the World Wide Web:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration:  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

New York City Department of Health: [www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/alerts/911.html](http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/alerts/911.html)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:  
[www.hhs.gov/hottopics/healing/facts.html](http://www.hhs.gov/hottopics/healing/facts.html)

New York State Emergency Management Office: [www.state.ny.us/sept11/wtcframe.html](http://www.state.ny.us/sept11/wtcframe.html)

R-179 # # #

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### EPA-OSHA FACT SHEET: Environmental Information from Ground Zero at the World Trade Center Site

Much of the monitoring data collected to date on and around the World Trade Center site indicates relatively low levels of asbestos and other potential contaminants. Nevertheless, workers should take precautions to protect themselves from any potential exposure.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are making every effort to protect the health of workers at the World Trade Center site. EPA and OSHA are providing real-time analysis in the immediate vicinity of the debris pile at ground zero, checking for compounds such as benzene, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide that are associated with fires. This information helps response workers on the scene determine what level of respiratory protection is appropriate to use. EPA is also collecting data from 16 fixed air monitors in and around ground zero, which provide critical information about levels of asbestos at the site.

Crews working on the rubble pile at the World Trade Center site should wear respirators, which have been provided by EPA, OSHA and other government agencies, and take appropriate precautions to protect against potential environmental hazards. OSHA is fit-checking respirators for workers involved in the rescue and recovery.

To reduce worker exposure to the dust, EPA has set up washing stations for response workers at ground zero. These stations provide shelter, shade and a place for workers to wash off and change into clean clothing before going home. Vehicles and heavy equipment departing the zone are being washed down prior to departure as well. Signs informing rescuers of the need to wear protective gear are posted throughout the washing areas.

#### Asbestos Monitoring Data – Ambient Air Samples:

OSHA has analyzed 67 air samples in the area where crews are actively working on the World Trade Center Site. None of these samples exceeded OSHA's permissible exposure limit of 0.1 f/cc as an 8-hour time-weighted average.

EPA has collected and analyzed a total of 442 air samples for asbestos from its 16 fixed air monitoring stations, which are located in the area surrounding the World Trade Center site. Only 27 were above 70 structures per millimeter squared, the AHERA standard, which is based upon assumptions of long-term exposure. ("AHERA" is the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, which is used to determine whether children may re-enter a

school building after an asbestos removal or abatement.)

#### Asbestos Monitoring Data – Bulk Dust and Debris Samples:

EPA and OSHA have also sampled dust at the site and in the surrounding area for asbestos. Of 177 bulk samples collected by EPA and OSHA, 48 contained more than one percent asbestos, the level EPA and OSHA use to define asbestos-containing material. The existence of dust that contains more than one percent of asbestos does not in itself constitute a significant health hazard – ambient air samples are more accurate measures of actual exposure potential, and asbestos is primarily considered hazardous after long-term exposure – but dust samples do provide important information about potential exposure. Asbestos was used as a fire-proofing material in a portion of one of the World Trade Center towers.

#### Dioxin:

EPA took samples at four stations on Sept. 16 and analyzed them for dioxin. Levels were at or just above EPA's standard for action based upon an assumption of a continuous 30-year exposure. EPA is monitoring closely, but sees no cause for concern by workers or the public based upon short-term exposure to these levels. EPA and OSHA recommend that workers at the site use respirators they have been provided, which will protect them from exposure to dioxins.

#### Metals:

OSHA has taken 53 samples of metals such as lead, iron oxide, zinc oxide, copper and beryllium. None of the levels found for these metals have exceeded OSHA limits.

#### Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):

EPA and OSHA have closely monitored levels of VOCs in the plume of smoke coming from the site, mainly to assist response workers in determining the appropriate level of respiratory protection. Four samples exceeded the OSHA standard of 0.5 parts per million (ppm) for an eight-hour day, but did not approach a level of immediate concern to workers. The sample taken Sept. 22 had a level of 3.2 ppm. One sample taken on Sept. 26 had a level of 11 ppm, which fell to 2.6 ppm on Sept. 29. The sample taken Sept. 30 found 5.1 ppm. EPA and OSHA are continuing to monitor these emissions closely, but expect them to decrease significantly as the remaining fires under the debris pile are extinguished.

#### Carbon Monoxide:

OSHA has taken nine personal samples of carbon monoxide for workers on the debris pile; results range from 1 ppm to 15 ppm – well below the OSHA standard (50 ppm permissible exposure limit). As a precaution, FEMA is bringing in a medical team to handle any

potential health complaints from workers on the site.

### Silica:

OSHA has collected more than 40 samples from the disaster site and analyzed them for crystalline silica. The overwhelming majority have shown no detectable levels of silica. The highest result was less than half the OSHA limit.

### Freon:

Freon, which is commonly used as a coolant in refrigerators and air conditioners, was stored in the basement of the World Trade Center. The freon containers have been located and are reported to be intact. The freon will be recycled after it is removed.

### EPA-OSHA FACT SHEET: Environmental Information from Lower Manhattan for Residents, Area Employees and Local Business Owners

Air and dust samples collected in lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and New Jersey show that the public is not being exposed to concentrations of asbestos above EPA or OSHA levels of concern. Shortly after the World Trade Center collapse, EPA's emergency response team and OSHA staff were on the scene taking air and dust samples and analyzing them for asbestos, lead and volatile organic compounds.

Four air samples, collected on Sept. 11 in Brooklyn where the prevailing winds were blowing, were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Also, five air samples were collected on Sept. 11 in Brooklyn and were analyzed for lead and asbestos. None of the samples had detectable levels of lead. Asbestos was not detected in two samples, and the other two had levels of asbestos well below the EPA (AHERA) standard used to determine if children can re-enter a school after asbestos has been removed or abated. Two samples had no detectable levels of VOCs, and two had very low levels of a VOC compound.

EPA also obtained four air samples from Liberty State Park in New Jersey, across the Hudson River from the World Trade Center. Neither asbestos nor lead were detected in any of the samples. Two of the samples contained some toluene, which probably originated from automobile exhaust or gasoline generators being used near the sample collection locations.

As of Sept. 30, EPA has collected and analyzed 442 air samples for asbestos from its 16 fixed air monitoring stations. Only 27 were above 70 structures per millimeter squared, the AHERA standard.

In addition, EPA has taken 128 samples of dust and analyzed them for asbestos. Thirty-four have had levels of asbestos above the 1 percent used to define asbestos-containing material. Four samples of dust taken in the immediate vicinity of the

debris pile on Sept. 11 found lead concentrations well below EPA's lead action level. Only one of the four samples had an asbestos level over the 1 percent.

In addition, OSHA took nearly 200 bulk dust and air samples to test for asbestos in the Financial District and a 90-block area immediately surrounding the World Trade Center from Sept. 13 to Sept. 24. Results showed levels consistent with safe and acceptable standards, ranging from 0.0013 f/cc to 0.086 f/cc.

EPA has used its 10 HEPA filter SUPERVAC vacuum trucks to clean streets, sidewalks and parks in residential and commercial areas around the World Trade Center site, where heavy dust or the presence of asbestos was found. The high-powered vacuum trucks have been used to clean streets in the Financial District, as well as sidewalks, the Battery Park City promenade, area parks, playgrounds, and even children's sand boxes. Dust and other materials vacuumed are being kept in air-tight containers and disposed of properly. Vacuum trucks will be available to address other areas, as needed.

In examining the data provided by EPA and OSHA, the public should be careful to distinguish between data that measures asbestos concentrations in the air and in data from dust samples taken from the ground or other surfaces. Ambient air samples are more accurate indicators of the potential exposure of the public to potential contaminants. Levels of asbestos in the dust and debris vary. The agencies have found some levels above the one percent standard that indicates that the material contains asbestos, but ambient air sampling has not generally revealed concentrations of asbestos at levels that pose significant threats to public health.

EPA has been evaluating samples of air against an extremely stringent standard, the AHERA standard (70 structures per millimeter squared; established by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act). Levels of Asbestos above the AHERA standard do not imply that there is an immediate health threat to the public. Asbestos exposure becomes a health concern when high concentrations of asbestos fibers are inhaled over a long period.

*Metals:* EPA collected air samples at 24 locations in the residential and business districts near the World Trade Center on September 16, 23, and 27 and analyzed them for metals. No samples violated OSHA standards.

#### *Workers in the Financial District:*

EPA and OSHA made extensive efforts to ensure the safety of workers in the Financial District as they returned to work on Sept. 17. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard helped corporate personnel from 42 firms enter financial district buildings to retrieve important information and check computer systems that were needed in order to open the markets on Sept. 17. Buildings were examined for contaminants and to ensure adequate oxygen prior to entry. EPA also deployed its SUPERVAC trucks to the Financial District to clean the streets and sidewalks before employees returned to work.

OSHA took approximately 126 air and bulk samples in the Financial District from Sept. 13 to Sept. 21. Results showed levels well below OSHA standards. Therefore, OSHA ceased sampling in the Financial District on Sept. 21.

### Residents and Workers Returning to Homes and Offices in Lower Manhattan

The vast majority of EPA and OSHA samples of air and dust analyzed for asbestos have been at levels that pose no significant risk to residents and workers returning to their homes or area businesses. However, people returning to buildings in the area may find some level of dust and debris. If dust or debris from the World Trade Center site has entered homes or offices, people should be sure to clean thoroughly and avoid inhaling dust while doing so. The New York City Department of Public Health has posted information and recommendations for people re-entering buildings at: [www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/alerts/wtc3.html](http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/alerts/wtc3.html).

### EPA-OSHA FACT SHEET: Other Environmental Issues Related to the Attack on the World Trade Center

#### Drinking water:

EPA and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection sampled drinking water from 13 water mains in lower Manhattan on Sept. 15. Typically, sampling is done at the water main distribution points and not at the tap. Asbestos was not detected in any of the samples, nor was any bacterial contamination. PCBs and pesticides levels were below detectable levels, and metals (including mercury) and radioactivity (both alpha and beta) did not exceed EPA drinking water standards.

#### Water:

EPA has collected water samples from the Hudson and East rivers where storm sewers and surface runoff is discharged following days of heavy rain to determine if any potential contaminants from the site are entering area waters. Initial runoff samples showed some elevated levels of PCBs, dioxin, asbestos and metals. Levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were at levels normally found in city combined sewage flows. Follow-up samples found non-detectable levels of asbestos, PCBs and PAHs and metals below the level of concern.

EPA has also collected water samples from the 13th Street Pump Station, which transfers wastewater from lower Manhattan to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Brooklyn. As a precaution, the Newtown Creek plant is segregating the sewage flows from lower Manhattan and will not use the sludge from these flows for beneficial use. Analysis of samples taken for dioxin showed no elevated levels.

#### Fresh Kills Landfill:



EPA has been monitoring and analyzing dust levels at the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, where debris from the World Trade Center site is being taken for storage and analysis by the FBI. EPA has taken 162 air samples at the landfill, with only two exceeding the AHERA standard. EPA has found no cause for alarm, but is advising FBI crews at the landfill to wear respirators and to suppress the dust with water when dust levels rise. EPA is now operating and has upgraded washing stations for workers and trucks at the site, which were previously managed by the National Guard. Recent data indicates dust levels on the site are decreasing.

Small Business Assistance:

EPA Compliance Assistance staff are working with the Small Business Administration to provide information to impacted small businesses regarding assistance loans and cleanup options. Business owners can contact SBA disaster assistance at 1-800-659-2955.



## UNIT LOG

1. INCIDENT NAME

WTC Disaster

2. DATE  
PREPARED3. TIME  
PREPARED

4. UNIT NAME/DESIGNATORS.

DATA ASSESSMENT

5. UNIT LEADER (NAME AND POSITION)

Dore LaPosta

6. OPERATIONAL PERIOD

9/18-9/19

7.

## PERSONNEL ROSTER ASSIGNED

NAME

ICS POSITION

HOME BASE

Pennis McChesney

Mark Gallo

Mark Maddaloni

Mustafa Mustafa

Anthony Carlton

8.

## ACTIVITY LOG (CONTINUE ON REVERSE)

TIME

MAJOR EVENTS

10:30

Assess body data reports

11:15

Brief Senior management.

ongoing

meet w/ staff to discuss problems associated with asbestos sampling

all day

worked on air sampling plan

all day

handled calls regarding data results

12:30

attended facility meeting

2:00

attended shift staff meeting

2:00

prepared staff and staff participated in joint agency data sharing call

3:30

attended planning meeting

afternoon

distributed data to interested parties

Dore

9/19  
Dore LaPosta



**Interagency Environmental Assessment Workgroup  
Contact List — 9/25/2001**

Name	Agency	E-Mail	Fax	Telephone
<b>HHS</b>				
*Bob Williams	ATSDR	RCWilliams@cdc.gov	404-498-0073	404-498-0007
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Tom Stukas	ATSDR/R2	Stukas.Tom@epa.gov	732-321-4365	732-906-6931 888-223-6498 Page
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Ken Wallingford	NIOSH	KWallingford@cdc.gov	513-458-7147	513-841-4327
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*Larry Reed	HQ	Reed.Larry@epamail.epa.gov	703-603-9146	703-603-8960
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Kathy Callahan	EPA R2	Callahan.Kathy@epa.gov	212-637-3772	212-637-5000
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Mary McCaffery	EPA R2	McCaffery.Mary@epa.gov		202-564-2704
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David Mobley	RTP	Mobley.David@epamail.epa.gov	919-541-2357	919-541-4676 919-302-6187 Cell
Fred Dimmick	RTP	Dimmick.Fred@epa.gov	919-541-3613	919-541-5537
Deirdre Murphy	RTP	murphy.deirdre@epa.gov	919-541-0237	919-541-0729
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**Interagency Environmental Assessment Workgroup  
Contact List — 9/25/2001**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>Fax</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
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Jim Crowder	RPT	crowder.jim@epa.gov		
Susan Zapata	RPT	Zapata.susan@epa.gov		
<b>DOL</b>				
*David Ippolito	OSHA		212-337-2371	212-337-2378
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Matt Darcangelo	DOH	mjdarcang@gw.dec.state.ny.us		

\*Tri Chairs

Marianne Horinko  
09/25/01 03:33 PM

To: Eileen McGinnis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Claudia  
McMurray/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, William  
Muszynski/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc:  
Subject: Data Mgmt Issue

Eileen, Claudia, Bill, and Tina -

Mike Shapiro is chairing a conference call at 4 EST to expedite the data collection. I understand that all parties want to make sure the data are properly arrayed, QC'd, communicated, etc. so that the public doesn't start comparing apples and oranges and create unnecessary concern. However, I understand that we need to start getting IMMEDIATE information out in the short term, and thus will press to get a web page up tomorrow so that people can find out in very simple terms what the data show in their neighborhoods (even if only the most recent data). We will keep you posted; OEL is handling the actual mgmt tasks and we'll do what we can on our end.

Stay tuned ...  
Marianne

Marianne Lamont Horinko  
Program Advisor  
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code 5101  
1200 Ariel Rios Building  
Washington, DC 20460  
(202) 260-4610  
(202) 260-3527



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

*File Nader*

September 27, 2001

TO: Amy Rutkin, Linda Rosenthal, Rob Gottheim  
Office of the Honorable Jerrold Nader  
Via Fax - 212-367-7356

FROM: Peter Brandt, EPA

Amy, Linda & Rob,

Please see the attached memo which has our new temporary New York City number - 212-742-2430 or a new cell number, 516-287-6035. If you use our 917-488-9046 cell number, please don't leave a message as we haven't been able to retrieve any messages. You can also continue to try to reach us through our Edison office at 732-321-6658.

I know Berry spoke with Linda Thursday with an update of our activities. We are now placing information on our national website - [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), including the locations of our air monitors. These locations are subject to change as the Ground Zero operations proceed.

All the best.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

Via Fax

26 September 2001

TO: Congressional Offices from  
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

FROM: Administrative Assistant/Environmental Legislative Assistant - Washington  
District Director

We are pleased to report that the EPA regional office in lower Manhattan has reopened.

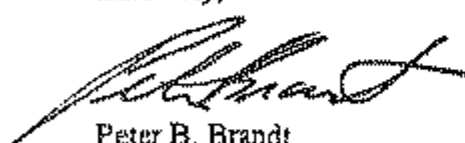
From the moment following the attack on the World Trade Center complex, EPA, operating from our Emergency Response Center in Edison, New Jersey, was present and continues to respond to this emergency.

As always, we are here to be helpful to you and your offices.


As you may know, there are difficulties with telephone service in the area surrounding our building therefore we are experiencing limited telephone capability at this time. Until our communications are fully operational, we may be reached at 212-742-2430. If you experience difficulty with that number, please contact EPA's Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations at 202-564-5200, who will contact us on your behalf.

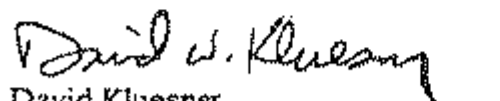
Thank you for your patience and we look forward to working closely with you in the future.

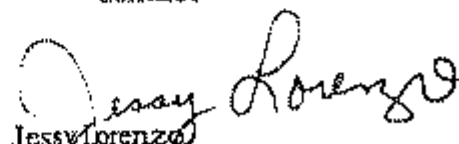
Sincerely,

  
Peter B. Brandt  
Chief for Intergovernmental  
Affairs

  
Patricia Carr  
Congressional Liaison

  
Berry Shore  
State & Local Government  
Contact

  
David Kluesner  
International Activities Coordinator

  
Jessy Lorenzo  
Staff Assistant



Lisa Harrison

03/13/2003 01:45 PM

To: Bonnie Piper/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, martyak.joe@epa.gov, Bonnie Bellow/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

cc:

Subject: Lisa's edits to WTC quote

here are some edits to your draft --

The events of 9-11 were a terrible tragedy-- ~~one~~ for which no one in America or the world was prepared. Communicating complex information to a frightened public was not easy, but the EPA readily and willingly joined with FEMA and other agencies to ensure that the damage to public health and safety was minimized. The Agency reported its first test results because we are committed to the public's right to know about risk to public health -- even though there was no precedent to reporting scientific data of this magnitude. Our response was based on science, yet we used common sense and compassion. We will continue to respond to any emergencies, as we have done in our assistance with cleanup of the space shuttle Columbia, with commitment, compassion and concentration.

Bonnie Piper

Bonnie Piper

03/12/03 07:41 PM

To: Lisa Harrison/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

cc:

Subject: draft statement about the IG's (draft) report about EPA's response to the WTC collapse.

Here's a crack at a response.

EPA is reviewing the IG's draft report on the Agency's response to the World Trade Center Towers collapse. The events of 9-11 are a terrible tragedy. Communicating complex information to a frightened public was not easy. The Agency was not premature to report its first test results though there was no precedent to reporting scientific data of this magnitude. EPA remains committed to the public's right to know about risk to public health. How the Agency communicates risk is just as important as the decisions using science to manage risk. (Bonnie Bellow used a quote: " It involves looking at science and the public need, and need include's people's concerns" (i.e. were were compassionate not just scientists).

my take on this draft IG is that people were scared because we were so certain things were ok, and we didn't acknowledge their fears, and we just stuck with the facts of the chemicals we studied. we didn't state there was uncertainty. people also fear there are other contaminants - chemicals and particulates - that are out there and have no regulatory standards...

Joe wants something for tomorrow morning..pls edit where you think necessary. R2 will want to review this statement as well.

see you tomorrow.

bp

Chris Dunlap

01/17/2003 10:37 AM

To: William Muszynski/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc: Jim Hatfield/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA  
Subject: Question From The OIG Team On The WTC Assignment

I am part of the OIG team that visited you and your staff several months ago concerning our assignment to review EPA's response to the collapse of the World Trade towers. We have learned that EPA's Indoor Environments Division prepared a draft website around September 14, 2001, that would have provided the public with information about asbestos. This site was never activated. Several officials in the Office of Air and Radiation indicated you might have the most knowledge about why the site was not activated. Could you please address this question or refer it to someone on your staff who could address it? Please let me know if you need more information or have any questions. I can be reached by phone at 919-541-1029. Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards,

Chris Dunlap

410-305-2778

Kasper: Involvement pulling together material off EPA web site (all existing). Sent to region and HQ. later. than 9/14. Tina Kreisher.

1/23 - Dunlop

Office of Indoor Air prepared web site.

Reg. 2 officials don't read details about this web site.

- Indoor Environments Division: Draft web site made available to Bill M. <sup>claim</sup>

Report on or before 3/31

2/15 - Draft - will be shared.

Levy/Prudence

OAR - Page on asbestos. People wearing  
full face mask ventilator. Generic  
on asbestos.

Test version of page.

Tina or Tom Basile made ultimate decision

Basic information on asbestos.

Health Effects of dust & smoke.

Cleanup instructions, in residences & businesses

"lost in the fray." "overwhelming amt. of  
activity."  
"don't recall discouraging the  
activation of the site."

→ Reg. 2 officials do not recall  
why the site was not activated,  
but no one recalls discouraging  
the activation of the site.

Draft web site presented to EPA  
officials.

Bonnie Bellow

02/10/2003 05:39 PM

To: William Muszynski, Kathy Callahan,

cc:

cc:

Subject: Conversation with Chris Dunlop of OIG

I called Dunlop to clarify that you (Bill) have a recollection that we did look at some Web material on asbestos possibly forwarded by John Seitz. I added that Kathy and I also remember seeing some material, although none of us can say for certain it was the Web site material prepared by the Indoor Environments Division that is under discussion. He says the Web site topics included these categories: Basic Information on Asbestos, Health Effects of Smoke and Dust, and Instructions for Cleaning up Residences and Buildings. I told him that we remember, without too much detail, that the material was inappropriate to the conditions related to the World Trade Center disaster at that time. Here's the gist of what he plans to include in his notes (it may or may not wind up in the actual report):

The group in Washington "presented the draft Web site to Region 2 officials." They stated that there was an overwhelming amount of activity going on at the time (September 16) and the the Web site might have gotten "lost in the fray." He goes on to say that "Region 2 officials do not recall why the site was not activated, but no one remembers discouraging its activation. Stated this way, it leaves the reader with the impression that we were too busy to get basic public information up on our Web site. If this is the same material we looked at, this statement is not exactly accurate.

He was baffled about how we could find the material inappropriate -- assuming we are talking about the same material -- when it provided basic information. I explained that without a context, even basic information can be misleading and at that stage of the response, we were still evaluating the situation, working closely with other agencies, including those with direct expertise in health. I added that we were getting information about the hazards of asbestos to reporters and other agencies. I also reminded him that lower Manhattan was evacuated and at that point, so the Web was not the best way to reach members of the public. I added that information covered by the categories in the HQ Web site did eventually go up on our Web site and the Internet sites of other agencies.

He is willing to amend his notes, if we would like to add something or change the way he has characterized the situation. Any thoughts on this?

*we scanned  
the material.  
It was not  
user friendly  
o.d. recall  
referred to the  
s. recall to  
would be  
helpful. Seitz  
Told John Seitz*

*out of  
context  
as presented  
it was*

Ben -  
File

Bonnie Bellow

03/07/2003 05:53 PM

To: William Muszynski, Kathy Callahan,

cc:

cc:

Subject: OIG Inquiry on the WTC Web site

I have resolved all the outstanding issues with the OIG except the language they plan to use to describe our reaction to the Indoor Environments Division Web site. I promised Chris Dunlop that I would email him preferred language. We just need to counter the belief, as now reported in Dunlop's notes, that we cannot recall why the Web site was not activated, nor do we remember discouraging its activation. It is simply not correct. Dunlop explained that this might not be included in the report, but he does want his notes to be accurate. Here's what I would like to say (reflecting my discussion with you both):

Early in our response to the WTC disaster, we recall receiving some text proposed for posting on the agency's Web page. We quickly scanned the material and found that it was not user-friendly in that it was not directly related to the situation facing most people in lower Manhattan at that time. We did not think it would be helpful, and did not have the time to work on a major revision. Bill Muszynski relayed our concerns to John Seitz at HQ. We do not recall any further discussion of the issue.

Let me know and I will get this or something to him on Monday.

Jeff Pierce



## OIG FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Date: 2-12-03

From: CHRIS DUNLAP  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office Of Inspector General  
Southern Audit Division  
Research Triangle Park Branch Office

Fax Phone: (919) 541-2504

To: JOHN SVEC  
212-637-4943

Remarks: The two attached pages were provided by EPA  
to Congressman Rodden on April 25, 2002  
in response to a letter from the Congressman to  
Administrator Whitman, dated March 7, 2002.  
We cannot locate the document on EPA's existing  
web site. Do you know how we might determine  
the date this document was on EPA's web site  
or could you tell us anyone who might be  
able to make this determination? Thank you.

Total Number Of Pages (including this one) 3

If you have not received the number of pages specified,  
please call (919) 541-2204. Thank you.

*If you have any questions, you can reach  
me by phone at 919-541-1029*



# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## EPA Response to September 11

Contact Us | Print Version | Search:    
[EPA Home](#) > [Response to 9-11](#)

### Administrator Whitman and NYC Mayor Giuliani Open Winterized Indoor Wash Station for WTC Workers



pile of the World Trade Center during the winter months — including thousands of city, state and federal employees, volunteers and contractors — will use this state-of-the-art facility until the spring. The new 31,000 sq foot indoor wash station features boot and wash areas, HEPA vacuums for dusty cloth 30 shower stalls, men's and women's locker areas, Salvation Army hot and cold food stations, and American Red Cross disaster mental health counseling. Up to 6,000 work use the facility every day.



### EnviroMapper Tool

Monitoring data from the World Trade Center have been available on this site for several weeks - showing maps and measurement results by individual substance. We have now added a new interactive tool - EnviroMapper for NYC Response - which allows you to map the monitoring sites and results for many substances at once.

In particular, you can:

- select your own location and see where monitoring activities are being conducted
- review measurements for many substances (e.g., asbestos, pcbs, benzene, particulate monitoring)
- see aerial photographs of the area
- search by location for all information about that site (e.g., Stuyvesant High School)
- follow routes used by trucks and barges to haul away debris and materials;

### Environmental Monitoring

#### New York City Area Data Summaries

[Interactive Mapping Interface](#)

[NYC EnviroMapper](#)

#### Data Tables

- [Asbestos in Air](#)
- [Particulate Matter 2.5 \(fine particles\)](#)
- [Particulate Matter 10 \(fine & coarse particles\)](#)
- [Asbestos in Soil/Dust](#)
- [Drinking Water](#)
- [PCBs in Air](#)
- [Lead in Air](#)
- [Benzene in Air](#)

[New York State DEC](#)  
[New York City DEP](#)  
[New Jersey DEP](#)



While EnviroMapper provides a more comprehensive way to view data, we will also continue to provide the individual data tables as before.

#### Information About Re-entering Buildings

EPA has found the presence of asbestos-containing material in some of the dust samples taken from the World Trade Center debris. If you find that your apartment or workplace contains more than a minimal amount of dust, the space should be cleaned by a professional asbestos contractor before you re-occupy. A list of [certified contractors](#) [\[EXIT disclaimer\]](#) in the New York area can be found on the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Web site.

If you find a minimal amount of dust on returning to your home or workplace, follow the [New York City Department of Health](#) [\[EXIT disclaimer\]](#) recommendations for people re-occupying buildings. These procedures should also be followed if re-occupied residences or offices become dusty due to ongoing work at the World Trade Center.

## General Information

[Frequently Asked Environmental and Public Health Questions about the World Trade Center and Pentagon Tragedies](#)

[Asbestos Health Information](#)

[Fact sheet about smoke and dust \(particulate matter\)](#)

[Related EPA Press Releases](#)

[Information from the New York City Department of Health](#) [\[EXIT disclaimer\]](#)  
[Air Quality Information](#)

[Pictures from the World Trade Center Response](#)

## How You Can Help

[Information from the White House](#) [\[EXIT disclaimer\]](#)



## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### Region 2 News & Speeches

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## At Event Today, Administrator Whitman and Mayor Giuliani Formally Open EPA's Winterized Indoor Wash Station for WTC Workers 31,000 Sq. Foot Facility Provides Worker and Equipment Washdowns, Food, Break Area

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, December 11, 2001**

**(#01144)** New York, N.Y. - Earlier today, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman and New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani unveiled EPA's new indoor wash station at ground zero. Workers doing removal and recovery work at the debris pile of the World Trade Center during the winter months – including thousands of city, state and federal employees, volunteers and contractors – will use this state-of-the-art facility until the spring. The new 31,000 square foot indoor wash station features boot and mask wash areas, HEPA vacuums for dusty clothing, 30 shower stalls, men's and women's locker areas, Salvation Army hot and cold food stations, and American Red Cross disaster mental health counseling. Up to 6,000 workers use the facility every day.

Also attending the event today were: Jane Kenny, the new Regional Administrator of EPA Region 2 based in New York; Timothy S. Carey, President and CEO of the Battery Park City Authority; World Trade Center Incident Commander for the Salvation Army Major George Polarek; and Larry Koslick, Disaster Relief Operation Director for the Red Cross.

"EPA's new wash station will help ensure the safety of ground zero workers and the safety of the neighborhood by making sure everyone who works at this site can clean off the dust and other materials they've accumulated on their clothing and equipment and on themselves," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "Our hope is that this facility will provide a refuge and a shelter for all those who are doing so much – more than any of us have the right to ask or expect, but which they are doing from their hearts and souls."

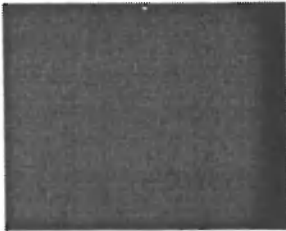
"I want to commend the EPA for their efforts in getting this great new indoor wash station up and running prior to winter setting in," said Mayor Giuliani. "This state-of-the-art facility will provide those working at ground zero with a warm and comfortable place to rest; have a hot meal; change their clothing and wash up. I thank Administrator Whitman for her on-going support, and look forward to the continued cooperation of the EPA."

"The events of September 11 are too large for any one agency. We are pleased to join together with the American Red Cross and especially with the EPA to serve our rescue workers – New York's finest," said Salvation Army Incident Commander Major George Polarek.

"As the city heals, the American Red Cross is honored to continue to provide around the clock emotional, therapeutic and spiritual support to the dedicated

workers at Ground Zero," said Larry Koslick, American Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation Director. Workers may take a momentary refuge from the harsh working environment and share their personal experiences with licensed Red Cross counselors."

The wash station, located inside a large white tent on Battery Park City property at West and Murray Streets in lower Manhattan, was constructed and has been maintained by EPA at a cost of approximately \$4 million in emergency funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It costs EPA approximately \$650,000 a month to run the station, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides World Trade Center workers with a place to wash equipment and shower, store possessions, eat and take a break during their often long and strenuous workdays on and around the debris pile. The Salvation Army provides about 9,000 meals a day to workers at the north end of the facility.



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Last updated on Tuesday, January 14th, 2003  
URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region02/news/2001/01144.htm>

EPA

# Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

## EPA, OSHA UPDATE ASBESTOS DATA, CONTINUE TO REASSURE PUBLIC ABOUT CONTAMINATION FEARS

Bonnie Piper 202 564-7836

Bonnie Bellow 732 321-6656

Sue Hensley, Dept. of Labor (OSHA) 202-693-6023

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Labor's Occupational Health and Safety Administration today announced that the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site in New York do not indicate levels of concern for asbestos. The new samples confirm previous reports that ambient air quality meets OSHA standards and consequently is not a cause for public concern. New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards.

EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris.

"Our tests show that it is safe for New Yorkers to go back to work in New York's financial district," said John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA. "Keeping the streets clean and being careful to track dust into buildings will help protect workers from remaining debris."

OSHA staff walked through New York's financial district on September 13<sup>th</sup>, wearing personal air monitors and collected data on potential asbestos exposure levels. All but two samples contained no asbestos. Two samples contained very low levels of an unknown fiber, which is still being analyzed.

Air Samples taken on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> inside buildings in New York's financial district were negative for asbestos. Debris samples collected outside buildings on cars and other surfaces contained small percentages of asbestos, ranging from 2.1 to 3.3 - slightly above the 1 percent trigger for defining asbestos material.

"EPA will be deploying 16 vacuum trucks this weekend in an effort to remove as much of the dust and debris as possible from the site where the samples were obtained," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "In addition we will be moving six continuous air monitoring stations into the area. We will put five near Ground Zero and one on Canal Street. The good news continues to be that the air samples we have taken have been at levels that cause us no concern."

The continuous monitoring stations will augment the ambient air quality monitoring located in Brooklyn. EPA and OSHA will remain on site and continue to monitor for levels of asbestos, PCBs, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the area throughout the long weeks of cleanup ahead. In addition, EPA will move in a bus that has the equipment to do instant analysis of volatile organic compound samples from air at the site. It is called a Total Atmospheric Gas Analyzer and is similar to a unit used during the Gulf War to sample emissions from the oil fires in Kuwait.

The Agency is recommending that businesses in the area planning to reopen next week take precautions including cleaning air conditioning filters and using vacuums with appropriate filters to collect dust. Vacuuming will reduce the chance of re-entering workers tracking dust into the buildings. This work is already underway by city agencies.

MORE

The U.S. Coast Guard will be assisting EPA in monitoring impacts, if any, of today's rainstorms on the quality. However, most of the rainflow is expected to be handled by the City's waste water treatment plant, since there will be only limited sewage in the combined sewer system. EPA has a vessel on site in New York to handle any necessary testing.

Additional technical support has been offered to EPA in New York from the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General's Office of Environmental and Occupational Health. That support would involve five engineers and/or environmental technicians and equipment if needed.



Glenitta  
Chase/DC/USEPA/US  
08/17/2007 10:58 AM

To Wanda Calderon/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc Judith Lewis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Dana  
Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
bcc  
Subject FOIA HQ-RIN-01734.07 - David Newman

Attached is OSWER/OEM response to the above subject FOIA.



RIN-07134-07 Response.pdf

Glenitt Chase  
Special Assistant  
Office of Emergency Management (5104A)  
USEPA  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Ph 202-564-2534  
Fax 202-564-8222



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

August 17, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Freedom of Information Act Request from David Newman – RIN-01734-07

**FROM:** Glenitta Chase *Glenitta Chase*  
Special Assistant  
Office of Emergency Management

**TO:** Wanda Calderon  
Region 2  
FOIA Office

This is in response to the Freedom of Information Act request from David Newman, NY Committee for Occupational Safety and Health, for copies of EPA HQ records pertaining to post-9/11 WTC related issues as specified in his correspondence for the period September 11, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Office of Emergency Management have searched our offices and found no documents that are responsive to this request.

cc: Judith Lewis



Barbara  
Finazzo/R2/USEPA/US  
07/30/2007 05:10 PM

To Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

cc

bcc

Subject Re: NYCOSH request 

This is confirmation that I have searched my files and do not have any responsive documents to the FOIA request 2RIN-0113-07 from David Newman of the NYCOSH.